

Births: Final Data for 2023

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Abstract

Objectives—This report presents 2023 data on U.S. births by selected characteristics. Trends in fertility patterns and maternal and infant characteristics are described.

Methods—Descriptive tabulations based on birth certificates of the 3.60 million births registered in 2023 are shown for various maternal demographic and health characteristics; medical and healthcare utilization, including source of payment for the delivery; and infant health characteristics. Selected data by mother's state of residence and birth rates also are shown. Trends for 2010 to 2023 are presented for selected items, and by race and Hispanic origin for 2016–2023.

Results—A total of 3,596,017 births occurred in the United States in 2023, down 2% from 2022. The general fertility rate declined 3% from 2022 to 54.5 births per 1,000 females ages 15–44 in 2023. The birth rate for females ages 15–19 declined 4% from 2022 to 2023; birth rates rose less than 1% for women ages 20–24, fell 1% to 3% for women ages 25–44, and were unchanged for females ages 10–14 and women ages 45–49. The total fertility rate declined 2% to 1,621.0 births per 1,000 women in 2023. Birth rates declined for both unmarried and married women from 2022 to 2023. Prenatal care beginning in the first trimester declined to 76.1% in 2023; the percentage of women who smoked during pregnancy declined to 3.0%. The cesarean delivery rate increased 1% in 2023 to 32.3%; Medicaid was the source of payment for 41.5% of births, an increase from 2022 (41.3%). The preterm birth rate (10.41%) and the low birthweight rate for 2023 (8.58%) were essentially unchanged from 2022. The twin birth rate declined 2% in 2023 to 30.7 per 1,000 births; the triplet and higher-order multiple birth rate decreased 6% to 73.8 per 100,000 births.

Keywords: birth certificate • maternal and infant health • birth rates • maternal characteristics • National Vital Statistics System

Introduction

This report presents detailed data on numbers and characteristics of births in 2023; birth and fertility rates; maternal demographic and health characteristics; medical and healthcare utilization, including source of payment for the delivery; and infant health characteristics. Reports on provisional birth statistics for 2023 that present overall and monthly data on selected topics are based on a sample of nearly all 2023 births (99.94%) (1,2); an *NCHS Data Brief* presented selected characteristics based on final data for 2023 births (3).

In addition to the tabulations included in this report, more detailed analysis is possible by using the annual natality public-use file. The data file may be downloaded from: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/Vitalstatsonline.htm (4). The public-use file does not include geographic detail; a file with this information may be available by request (5). Birth data may also be accessed through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) CDC WONDER, a user-friendly web-based data query system that makes several CDC information resources available to public health professionals and the public (6).

2003 revision of U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth

Starting in 2016, all 50 states, the District of Columbia (D.C.), Puerto Rico, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (Northern Marianas), and U.S. Virgin Islands reported data based on the 2003 U.S. Certificate of Live Birth. American Samoa started reporting data based on the revised certificate in 2019.

Detailed tables on many topics are included in this report. Technical Notes tables on several additional topics, such as births by attendant and place of delivery, mean age of mother by live-birth order, maternal prepregnancy body mass index, infections during pregnancy, and maternal morbidity, are also available; see [Tables I–XXI](#). For information on data quality, see reports that assessed the quality of selected medical and health

Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2023

[Rates are births per 1,000 females in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to females ages 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order is number of children born alive to mother. Data for live-birth order not stated are distributed]

		Age of mother									
Race and Hispanic origin of mother and live-birth order	Fertility rate	10–14	15–19			20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
			Total	15–17	18–19						
All races and origins ²											
Total	54.5	0.2	13.1	5.5	24.6	57.7	91.0	94.3	54.3	12.5	1.1
1st child	21.4	0.2	11.3	5.1	20.6	33.1	37.1	30.4	13.0	2.7	0.3
2nd child	17.1	0.0	1.6	0.3	3.6	17.4	29.6	31.5	17.9	3.5	0.3
3rd child	9.0	*	0.2	0.0	0.4	5.5	15.2	17.9	11.5	2.5	0.2
4th child	4.0	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.4	6.0	8.4	6.1	1.6	0.1
5th child	1.7	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.3	2.1	3.5	2.9	0.9	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.0	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.9	2.2	2.1	0.8	0.1
8th child or higher order.	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
Non-Hispanic, single race ³											
American Indian and Alaska Native											
Alaska Native	48.0	0.3	20.9	9.4	38.6	73.2	78.7	64.0	36.1	8.4	0.6
1st child	15.6	0.3	17.5	8.7	31.1	37.1	21.4	10.4	4.3	0.9	*
2nd child	12.7	*	3.0	0.7	6.7	23.4	23.9	15.5	6.8	1.3	*
3rd child	8.7	*	0.3	*	0.8	9.4	17.8	14.8	7.0	1.6	*
4th child	5.2	*	*	*	*	2.5	9.4	10.2	6.6	1.3	*
5th child	2.8	*	*	*	*	0.5	3.9	6.2	4.6	1.2	*
6th and 7th child	2.3	*	*	*	*	0.2	2.0	5.3	4.7	1.2	*
8th child or higher order.	0.8	*	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.5	2.0	0.9	*
Asian											
Asian	47.8	*	1.8	0.6	3.4	15.6	56.2	101.3	68.4	16.7	1.8
1st child	22.1	*	1.6	0.6	2.9	10.5	33.8	49.7	22.4	4.9	0.7
2nd child	17.2	*	0.2	0.0	0.4	3.8	15.3	36.5	29.8	6.3	0.5
3rd child	5.6	*	0.0	*	0.1	0.9	4.8	10.1	10.6	3.2	0.3
4th child	1.9	*	*	*	*	0.3	1.5	3.2	3.5	1.3	0.2
5th child	0.7	*	*	*	*	0.1	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.1
6th and 7th child	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.1
8th child or higher order.	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
Black											
Black	53.7	0.3	19.3	8.9	35.5	69.7	85.3	76.5	49.7	13.9	1.5
1st child	18.9	0.3	16.4	8.3	29.1	38.5	28.1	17.4	9.1	2.5	0.4
2nd child	15.1	0.0	2.5	0.6	5.6	20.5	26.8	22.0	13.1	3.3	0.4
3rd child	9.6	*	0.3	0.0	0.7	7.5	16.5	17.1	11.5	3.0	0.2
4th child	5.2	*	0.0	*	0.1	2.4	8.1	10.0	7.4	2.1	0.2
5th child	2.5	*	*	*	*	0.6	3.5	5.0	3.9	1.2	0.1
6th and 7th child	1.8	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.9	3.8	3.2	1.1	0.1
8th child or higher order.	0.6	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.3	1.0	1.4	0.6	0.1
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander											
Islander	73.2	*	21.2	7.5	41.4	115.3	137.3	95.8	56.7	15.8	1.4
1st child	21.2	*	17.5	7.0	32.9	54.8	34.6	17.0	6.7	1.7	*
2nd child	18.0	*	3.3	*	7.7	36.2	36.8	20.9	10.6	2.6	*
3rd child	13.5	*	*	*	*	17.8	31.3	19.2	10.0	2.4	*
4th child	9.0	*	*	*	*	4.8	20.6	15.0	9.6	2.9	*
5th child	5.3	*	*	*	*	1.1	8.5	10.6	8.4	1.7	*
6th and 7th child	4.6	*	*	*	*	0.6	4.7	10.2	7.9	2.5	*
8th child or higher order.	1.7	*	*	*	*	*	0.7	2.9	3.6	2.1	*
White											
White	51.7	0.1	8.4	2.9	16.7	48.3	89.2	97.1	51.9	10.6	0.9
1st child	20.9	0.1	7.4	2.7	14.2	28.4	39.7	33.8	13.4	2.5	0.3
2nd child	17.0	*	1.0	0.2	2.2	14.3	29.0	34.2	18.2	3.2	0.2
3rd child	8.1	*	0.1	0.0	0.2	4.4	13.2	17.1	10.7	2.0	0.1
4th child	3.3	*	0.0	*	0.0	1.0	4.9	7.1	4.9	1.1	0.1
5th child	1.3	*	*	*	*	0.2	1.6	2.8	2.1	0.6	0.1
6th and 7th child	0.8	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.6	1.8	1.7	0.6	0.1
8th child or higher order.	0.4	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.1

Table 5. Birth rates, by age of mother, live-birth order, and race and Hispanic origin of mother: United States, 2023—Con.

[Rates are births per 1,000 females in specified age and race and Hispanic origin group. Fertility rate computed by relating total births, regardless of age of mother, to females ages 15–44. Populations estimated as of July 1. Live-birth order is number of children born alive to mother. Data for live-birth order not stated are distributed]

Race and Hispanic origin of mother and live-birth order		Age of mother										
		Fertility rate	10–14	15–19			20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49 ¹
				Total	15–17	18–19						
Hispanic ⁴												
Total	64.7	0.3	20.8	9.3	39.0	81.1	111.2	100.3	59.0	15.4	1.1	
1st child	24.3	0.3	17.9	8.7	32.5	45.8	39.2	25.4	11.1	2.3	0.3	
2nd child	19.3	0.0	2.6	0.6	5.8	25.2	37.7	30.9	15.9	3.4	0.2	
3rd child	11.7	*	0.3	0.0	0.6	7.8	22.0	23.8	14.3	3.5	0.2	
4th child	5.6	*	0.0	*	0.1	1.8	8.5	12.2	9.3	2.8	0.2	
5th child	2.3	*	0.0	*	0.0	0.4	2.6	4.9	4.7	1.7	0.1	
6th and 7th child	1.3	*	*	*	*	0.1	1.0	2.5	3.0	1.3	0.1	
8th child or higher order.	0.3	*	*	*	*	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.0	

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

* Estimate does not meet National Center for Health Statistics standards of reliability.

¹Birth rates computed by relating births to women age 45 and older to women ages 45–49; see Technical Notes in this report.

²Includes births to race and origin groups not shown separately, such as Hispanic single-race Black, Hispanic single-race White, and non-Hispanic multiple-race women, as well as births with origin not stated.

³Race groups are single race. Race and Hispanic origin are reported separately on birth certificates. In this table, non-Hispanic females are classified by race. Race categories are consistent with 1997 Office of Management and Budget standards; see Technical Notes. Single race is defined as only one race reported on the birth certificate.

⁴Includes all people of Hispanic origin of any race; see Technical Notes.

SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, natality data file.